

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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INDEX

25X1

REMARKS.....	2
MANAGEMENT AT BRANCH NO 1.....	2
MVD-MGB ACTIVITIES AT BRANCH NO 1.....	3

25X1

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STATE #	1	X	ARMY #	X	NAVY #	X	AIR #	X	FBI		AEC		ORR	EV	
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25X1

SECRET

25X1

-2-

PARTY ACTIVITIES AT BRANCH NO. 1	4
LABOR UNION ACTIVITIES AT BRANCH NO. 1	5
LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS AT BRANCH NO. 1	6
Salaries and Wages	6
Employment Controls.	7
COMMENTS.	8

REMARKS

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The German specialists at Branch No. 1, Gorodomlya, were housed in apartment buildings located on Gorodomlya Island. Most Soviet workers and employees lived in Ostashkov although a number of the leading engineers and administrators were quartered on the island.

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all Soviet workers and employees were required to sign a declaration agreeing among other things, to have no social contact with the Germans. This rule was seldom broken. The Germans rarely had any contact with the Soviet population except when at work and when on shopping trips in Ostashkov.

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The Soviets learned to know and trust some Germans after more than four years of working together.

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MANAGEMENT AT BRANCH NO. 1

1. Branch No. 1 included all installations on Gorodomlya Island including the research institute and various administrative and service sections. Gorodomlya Island is located on Lake Seliger in Kalinin Oblast. Plant 88 is a subsidiary of Institute 88 in Podlipki. Institute 88 in turn is supervised by the Ministry of Munitions (Waffenministerium). 25X1
2. The main mission of Branch No. 1 was to improve certain features of the German V-2 guided missile after its reconstruction had been accomplished. The Soviet authorities were primarily interested in increasing the range and improving the accuracy of the V-2 weapon. individual research projects were suggested by the German specialists at Branch No. 1 and were approved by Soviet supervisors there and in the Ministry of Munitions. 25X1
3. The director of Branch No. 1 was responsible for both administrative and technical supervision of this installation, but con-

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cerned himself mainly with administrative matters. This position was filled by Zukhomlinov (possibly Sukhomlinov) [redacted] He [redacted] edly was replaced in June 1952. [redacted]

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Employees and workers at Branch No 1 frequently complained about the activities of their supervisors, but these complaints were mostly about daily working problems. There was no noticeable conscious tension between workers and intelligentsia as distinctive class groups. [redacted] an incident which indicated a certain degree of class consciousness on the part of Soviet employees with better educational backgrounds. Some Soviet girls who worked as interpreters in Department 1 were shocked when another interpreter, a girl with a high degree of education, married a welder. Her co-workers felt that she should have married someone with professional status, rather than a "simple worker".

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MVD-MGB ACTIVITIES AT BRANCH NO 1

Department 1 (Pervyy Otdel) of Branch No 1 was under the direct control of the MVD. It is possible that the MGB and not the MVD supervised the activities of Department 1, but the Soviet interpreters [redacted] always referred to the MVD as the supervising agency. [redacted]

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Department 1 was headed by Batukin until 1948. Khuturyanskiy served as head of this department from 1948 to 1952. Some 12 to 14 Soviet employees and three Germans worked in the offices under its immediate control. These included the department itself, which was responsible for the control of classified documents, a Soviet stenographic office, a German stenographic office, a technical library, a German-language library, and several interpreters. [redacted]

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Department 1 was responsible for the control of all classified documents entering and leaving Branch No 1, and for their security. In addition, the Soviet stenographic office prepared classified reports. The department was further responsible for maintaining

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all security regulations within Branch No 1 as well as determining the classification of written reports. This classification was rather arbitrary, as Khuturyanskiy and his assistants knew nothing about technical matters. In order to avoid any mistakes, they generally classified all reports as secret. With this minor exception, Department 1 had no right to intervene in the technical operation of Branch No 1.

9. Department 1 evidently received its orders directly from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and not from the director of Branch No 1 or the Ministry of Armaments. The department was independent of the director's control, although, in carrying out his orders, Khuturyanskiy naturally discussed or made decisions in consultation with the director.
10. It is possible, though unlikely, that Khuturyanskiy was under the supervision of secret police agents stationed at Branch No 1 (these agents are discussed below). It is more likely that Khuturyanskiy and these agents coordinated their efforts but were independent of one another.
11. A guard detachment constituted another security element at Branch No 1. These guards were under the control of the director of Branch No 1. A consultation office (Betreuungsbuero) was another element in the security network. This office, which included a director, an interpreter, and three or four "guides", was supposed to care for the personal needs of the German specialists. In reality, this office was mainly concerned with guarding the movements of German specialists when visiting Ostashkov. Although the consultation office was apparently under the administrative control of the branch director [redacted] it was an MVD unit. 25X1
[redacted] at Plant 88 at Podlipki [redacted] the consultation office there was directly under the MVD and independent of the Ministry of Armaments. 25X1
12. Finally, there was a series of secret agents who were assigned to the installation on Gorodomlya. [redacted] the "Gummi Maenner" ("rubber men"), as they worked behind closed rubber-lined doors. Only one agent was assigned to the institute at any given time; they were replaced in quick succession. Nothing was ever said about the activities of these agents, but [redacted] they were responsible for preventing possible sabotage on the island or directing the activities of informers. 25X1
13. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] one of them was addressed as lieutenant colonel or colonel [redacted]

PARTY ACTIVITIES AT BRANCH NO 1

14. Soviet employees at the research institute were required to attend courses on communist theory. Classes in the form of study groups were held every

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-5-

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every two weeks for the discussion of the works of Marx and Lenin. [redacted] 25X1
 [redacted] these courses were 25X1
 compulsory for all employees at the research institute. This was the subject
 of frequent complaints, as each meeting lasted about three hours. 25X1

15. Although probably not directly connected with the party activities [redacted]
 [redacted] all Soviet employees and workers at Branch No 1
 were required to attend monthly assemblies. Current administrative or 25X1
 personnel problems and perhaps current political developments were topics
 of discussion at these meetings. [redacted] many complaints about these 25X1
 meetings from Soviet workers and employees. In fact, attendance at meet-
 ings caused more open complaining than any other problem at Branch No 1.
 The Soviets objected to the inordinate amount of free time which they had
 to give up for such activities. The meetings began one-half hour before
 the end of the work day and sometimes lasted until three o'clock in the
 morning. After it was noticed that only about 50 per cent of the Soviet
 workers and employees was in attendance, guards were given instructions to
 allow no one to leave the island until a meeting had been concluded.
16. [redacted] 25X1
 [redacted] admittance into the party was no
 easy matter, requiring several years of rigorous candidacy. When a person
 was accepted into the Party, this was the subject of interested discussion 25X1
 by the Soviets at the institute. [redacted] such a step
 was considered quite an honor, even by people who were not party members.

LABOR UNION ACTIVITIES AT BRANCH NO 1

17. The labor union representing the workers and employees on Gorodomlya Island
 was largely concerned with receiving complaints about overtime, special work
 and other personnel matters. [redacted] 25X1
 [redacted]
18. The labor union was also held responsible for directing special work projects.
 Every worker and employee had to put in two days work each year on collective
 farms during the harvest season. The entire kollektiv also had to partici-
 pate in clean-up campaigns which were held on two or three Saturdays before
 the May Day and October Revolution celebrations. These "voluntary" contri-
 butions caused much dissatisfaction. Female office workers, in particular,
 complained about their harvest labors as they did not have proper clothing
 for heavy farm work.
19. The local labor union also granted workers and employees vacations to special
 leave centers. [redacted] only a handful of the Soviet employees 25X1
 were allowed to visit these leave centers in a given year. Most people
 stayed at home during vacations.
20. Convalescent homes were expensive by Soviet standards. [redacted] one woman 25X1
 suffering from lung trouble who stayed at such a rest home in the Crimea.
 Although she had a subsidy from the

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-6-

labor union she still had to pay about 100 rubles for her four-weeks stay there. [redacted] another woman who visited a rest home at Balashevo near Moscow [redacted] was not too satisfied with her visit as she felt that her time was too organized, too much taken up with group cultural and political activities.

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LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS AT BRANCH NO. 1

Salaries and Wages

21. There was a considerable spread in the wages of Soviet employees at the Gorodomlya installation. On the lowest rung of the ladder were unskilled female workers who earned from 300 to 400 rubles per month. Skilled workers who met their norms received 600 to 800 rubles in monthly wages. An interpreter with university training received a salary of 1,000 rubles while a young engineer usually received about 1,500 rubles per month plus bonuses. An established engineer received a base salary of 2,000 rubles per month plus bonuses and the chief engineer was paid 3,000 rubles under the same conditions.
22. [redacted] the Soviet employees considered these wage differences as only normal. There were of course some complaints about individuals earning too much money, as would be true anywhere in the world. However, this dissatisfaction was not transferred to the economic system itself. 25X1
23. [redacted] most of the girl interpreters at the institute [redacted] very intelligent and far better trained for their profession than would be the case in Germany. They all had completed ten year secondary schools and had graduated from a language institute in Moscow. Their four-year courses of studies at the language institute consisted of a major language and its linguistic antecedents, a secondary language, usually English, as well as Latin. Graduates of the institute received a diploma entitling them to work both as professional interpreters and teachers. A further two-year course of studies led to the title of docent. 25X1
24. Female laborers and office employees of Branch No. 1 received in general less pay than men doing the same work. Equal pay for men and women existed only in theory. For example, an unskilled female worker received perhaps only 300 to 400 rubles per month, whereas a male worker was paid 500 rubles. This too was the source of some complaining on the part of female workers but did not lead to complaints directed against the system as such. Again, it evidently occurred to no one that a pay system could be otherwise.
25. In fact [redacted] in general Soviet employees were satisfied with working conditions, unimaginable as that might seem. There were complaints, of course, but no indications of basic discontent. 25X1
26. Although few Soviets ever entered the living quarters of the German specialists on Gorodomlya Island, it was common knowledge that the Germans received higher wages and in general enjoyed a higher standard of living. Oddly enough, the Soviets never expressed dissatisfaction on this point. [redacted] 25X1

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-7-

Employment Controls

27. Most of the unskilled and skilled laborers at Branch No. 1 were recruited from nearby localities such as Ostashkov. They voluntarily reported for work. But graduates of universities and higher technical schools who had attended these institutions with the aid of government scholarships were obliged to work for three years at assignments designated by the ministry which subsidized their education. They received initial assignments through personnel liaison officials who were assigned by individual ministries to higher educational establishments. Most university graduates had received government scholarships and hence, were subject to this restriction. On the other hand, university graduates who had paid for their own education were free to choose their place of employment. As evidence in support of this statement, [redacted] Kiselev's son had intentionally attended a university without a government grant in order to be free of any period of compulsory employment. 25X1
28. A Soviet specialist subject to this employment restriction was theoretically free to choose his place of employment after completing his three-year contract. This, however, was extremely difficult at Branch No. 1 as it was part of the armament industry. For example, [redacted] only one or two interpreters who obtained a job release from the institute after completion of obligatory employment, and even they were successful only after considerable difficulty. 25X1
29. In fact, it was difficult for any employee at Branch No. 1 to obtain permission to take up employment elsewhere. A person applied for a job release through the director. The director attached his recommendation to the application and sent it on to the ministry for approval. Final decision was made by a personnel officer in the ministry.
30. A Soviet worker could not simply give notice to his employer and start working the next day on another job. He had to present his work documents when reporting to a new job, and these were not given up by his former employer unless a job release had been approved. In addition, every enterprise required that a new employee present a political certificate or testimonial from his previous place of employment. This document included information referring to the employee's political reliability, his attendance at Party courses on Marx-Leninism, et cetera.
31. Employment restrictions were the subject of heavy criticism on the part of these people wanting to but failing to obtain employment elsewhere. [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] Most criticism was directed at immediate supervisors who refused to certify that an employee could be spared from his job. Once again, the attitude seemed to be that "I am dissatisfied with this setup, but that is the way it is and therefore that is the way it has to be."

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-8-

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[redacted] a special case which illustrates the harsh effects of employment controls. There was a Soviet female interpreter who was assigned to work with the "Gummi Maenner" mentioned above. She never associated with Germans or with any Soviets except the "Gummi Maenner"

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[redacted] this girl was not allowed to have social contact with anyone except the "Gummi Maenner". She could not get a job release even after completing her three years of obligatory employment unless she married and quit her job. And this way out was partially blocked as the girl had no friends except for the "Gummi Maenner" and most of them were married.

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